

College of DuPage
Theater Presents

A Christmas Carol



By Charles Dickens
adapted by William J. Norris

Directed by Amelia Barrett

Featured Characters

Our production features 60+ actors! The main characters include:

- ▶ Ebenezer Scrooge, a money lender
- ▶ Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk
- ▶ Fred, Scrooge's nephew
- ▶ Ghost of Jacob Marley
- ▶ Ghost of Christmas Past
- ▶ Ghost of Christmas Present
- ▶ Tiny Tim
- ▶ Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

This ensemble started rehearsing on Oct. 2, and by show time they will have had more than 125 hours of rehearsal.

Scenes - what to look for

Act One

- ▶ Scene One: London Street
- ▶ Scene Two: Counting House
- ▶ Scene Three: London Street
- ▶ Scene Four: Scrooge's Bedroom
- ▶ Scene Five: Christmas Past
- ▶ Scene Six: The Schoolyard
- ▶ Scene Seven: The Fezziwigs

Act Two

- ▶ Scene One: Christmas Present
- ▶ Scene Two: Cratchit and Fred Homes
- ▶ Scene Three: Want and Ignorance
- ▶ Scene Four: The Nightmare
- ▶ Scene Five: Scrooge's Bedroom
- ▶ Scene Six: London Street
- ▶ Scene Seven: Counting House

The performance lasts approximately 70 minutes without an intermission.

Vocabulary Words

- ▶ Apprentice
- ▶ Carol
- ▶ Clutching
- ▶ Counting House
- ▶ Humbug
- ▶ Indigent
- ▶ Melancholy
- ▶ Miser
- ▶ Mistletoe
- ▶ Victorian Era
- ▶ Workhouse

1. Categorize each word using a chart
 - “know it”
 - “sort of know it”
 - “don’t know it all”
2. Write a definition or best guess for each word

English Monetary Coins



Farthing: Value 1/4 of a penny



Shilling: Value 12 pence/penny



Ha'Penny: Value 1/2 of a penny



Pound: 20 shillings or 240 pence



Pence: Value penny



Guinea: 21 shillings

What did items cost in Britain in 1840

Bread or a Drink: 1 pence

Full Meal: 4 - 6 pence

Hotel Room: Six Pence

Day in the Life

1. As a class, list your favorite main characters
2. Discuss how did or how will the actors bring the character to life? What did they do with their bodies and voices to become the character
3. Research: have students to select one character and research/discuss/illustrate the following:
 - What would they eat
 - How would they move
 - What noises do they make
 - How do they sleep
 - Are they energetic or shy?
4. Using an open space - ask students to act out these choices. Have everyone start with pretending to be asleep, then act out how their character would wake up, get dressed, eat breakfast, work, play, eat dinner, go to bed.
5. Allow students to interview each other's characters.

Culture and Discussion

1. List traditions of a Victorian Christmas - include those that were featured in the Christmas Carol production.
2. Assign students to a culture, region or country to research holiday celebrations.
3. Have students present findings on the following categories - foods, song/music, games, special dates.
4. Use a chart to compare and contrast the traditions, using the categories listed above.
5. Compare and contrast the role of the child, parent and elder in each cultural tradition.

Dear Parents

Today our class traveled to College of DuPage to see College Theater Department perform “A Christmas Carol”. Use the questions below to jump-start a conversation with your student about their experience. Not only will you learn about what happened, but it will also help your student process and reflect on the show.

1. What type of show did you see at the McAninch Arts Center?
Did they Talk? Dance? Sing?
2. What was the show about? (Tell me the story)
3. Did you have a favorite moment? (Tell me about it)
4. Can you remember something about the show?
Costumes? Set? Music? Actor?
5. How did you feel after the show? (Excited? Tired? Inspired to do something?)
6. What did you learn from the experience?



We look forward to seeing you at the show!

